find therein an adult *A. nigrinus*. Seeking a larva to be preserved, I searched through the rest of the wood and found that the other two larvae had also produced *nigrinus* adults. The stump in which the larvae were found was sited at the edge of an oak-wood but there were other birch trees nearby. The nearest pine plantations were about 1km distant.

In Britain, *A. nigrinus* is predominantly an insect of Scottish pine-woods though it is also recorded from areas of Britain devoid of native pine-woods (Mendel, 1988, *Provisional Atlas of the click beetles (Coleoptera: Elateroidea) of the British Isles*). I have reared adults from larvae found in dead pine trees in Speyside and once from larvae found in a long established pine saw-dust heap at Rannoch. Fowler (1890, *Coleoptera of the British Islands*), associates the beetle primarily with conifers but states that it also occurs in oaks. Lohse (1979, *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas* **6**), states that it occurs in rotten alder and, on occasions, in oak and other broad-leaved trees but does not mention conifers.– J.A. Owen, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

Atomaria pseudatra Reitter (Col.: Cryptophagidae) rediscovered in Norfolk

On 21.x.1995, we visited Thompson Common along with Mr A.J.W. Allen where we collected some sievings from moss and other material around the base of grass tussocks in a marshy area. Examination of the sievings collected by J.A.O. later at home produced a small black *Atomaria* which ran down to *pseudatra* in the key provided by Johnson (1992, *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas* vol. 13). The specimen was sent to Mr Colin Johnson who very kindly confirmed the diagnosis. As it happened, the sievings had not been immediately discarded and their re-examination two weeks later provided a second specimen. On learning of these captures, M.J.C. recalled that he had waiting attention a small black *Atomaria* taken on 23.ix.1993 at the same part of Thompson Common. This proved to be a third example of the beetle.

A. pseudatra, formerly known as *A. reitteri* Lövendal, is one of the rarest British members of the genus. The species was added to the British list by Allen (1968, *Ent. Rec.* **80**: 318-326), on the basis of a specimen taken by Crotch many years previously near Cambridge. Johnson (1993, *Provisional atlas of the Cryptophagidae – Atomariinae (Coleoptera) of Britain and Ireland*), summarising knowledge of *A. pseudatra* in Britain, gives only five records, all for single specimens taken prior to 1932 in wetlands in East Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and East Sussex. Our capture of one specimen in 1993 and two more in 1995 suggests that the species is established at the site.

Joy (1932, *A Practical Handbook of British Beetles*) did not include the species, because its presence in Britain was not realised at the time. Anyone applying his key to an example of *pseudatra* would reach the couplet

comprising paragraphs 14(15) *A. atra* (Herbst.) and 15(14) *A. morio* (Kolenati) but *pseudatra* does not fit well either description. The matter can readily be resolved with Johnson's key (*loc. cit.*).

Thompson Common is a Nature Reserve managed by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. We thank the Trust for permission to collect on the Reserve. We thank also Mr Colin Johnson for checking our identifications. Mr A.J.W. Allen very kindly provided J.A.O. with transport.– J.A. Owen, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU and M.J. Collier, 67 Church Lane, Homersfield, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 0EU.

BOOK REVIEWS

Butterflies of Surrey by **Graham A. Collins**. 87 pages, 16 colour plates; numerous maps. ISBN 0 9526065 0 X. Surrey Wildlife Trust, 1995. £12.00 from the Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0JN.

The county of Surrey, so close to London and well served by both natural history societies and entomologists, would, one might have guessed, have been an early candidate for a publication of a county list – but in fact no single publication on Surrey has been produced since the *Victoria County History* of 1902. The county has been arbitrarily divided in a number of lists – as part of the London Natural History Society area, for north-east and separately north-west Surrey. So this book collects together, for the first time, all the butterfly records for the county.

The Introduction covers a wide range of topics including the characteristics of the county, its recording history, bibliography of Surrey and adjacent counties, introductions to the main body of the work and checklists. The systematic part deals with the butterflies family by family. Each family is introduced by a descriptive narrative, and a typical larva is illustrated in colour. For each species there is a synopsis of its status, voltinism and foodplant, followed by general comments which include habitats in the county and records. For a significant species there are details of individual records and recorders. There is a distribution map and colour illustration for the majority of species. There are a number of appendices including a foodplant list, gazetteer, references and indices.

This is a well-written and well-produced book, at a sensible price. The text accompanying each species is particularly interesting and does not fall into the repetitive regurgitation formula so often found in butterfly books. Here is relevant information, often with a new slant. Although close to London, Surrey still boasts a number of interesting species such as *Hesperia comma, Leptidea sinapis, Thecla betulae, Hamearis lucina, Apatura iris* and